

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1 - 63 are allowed and claim 66 is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the reasons set forth below, it is asserted that claims 64 (as amended), 65 (as amended) and 67-84 are allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Rejection based on Mathies et al. in view of Wang et al. and further in view of Dubrow et al.

Claims 64, 65 and 67-84 are rejected. The rejection is traversed for the reasons set forth herein.

Applicant has amended claim 64 to more clearly and specifically state the invention. As amended, it is even more clearly and explicitly required that the "second substrate" have "at least one thick-film electrode for analyte detection disposed thereon." That is, the second substrate must include, as part of the structure of the second substrate, "at least one thick-film electrode."

In the Response to Arguments (paragraph 8 of the Final Office Action) the Examiner asserts that the "function of the device does not exclude the use of the second substrate as a cover." Under claim 64 the second substrate must include at least one thick film electrode. Whether or not the second substrate might be used as a "cover" is not relevant because neither Mathies et al. nor Dubrow et al., individually or in combination, make obvious a removable substrate that includes, as part of the structure thereof, a thick-film electrode. Dubrow et al. may teach or suggest a "cover", but neither Dubrow et al. nor Mathies et al. teach a removable structure with at least one thick film electrode. As noted in the previous amendment, there is no teaching or suggestion in Dubrow et al. of any electrode of any type, much less a thick-film electrode. Indeed, Dubrow et al. teach away from an electrode by including an "optical detection window 116" in the disclosed microfluidic devices. Col. 4, lines 27-39.

It is noted that the amendment to claim 64 does not introduce any new matter or any new subject. Indeed, claim 64 as previously present contained the same language, but as a separate limitation ("at least one thick-film electrode for analyte detection disposed on the second substrate, the thick-film

electrode being in fluidic connection with the outlet end of the separation channel"). It may be that this was inadvertently confusing, and accordingly this limitation was included with the limitation providing the "second substrate", to remove any doubt that the "at least one thick-film electrode" is a part of the second substrate. However, even without the amendment claim 64 should be allowable, because even prior to amendment claim 64 required that the "second substrate" have disposed on it a "thick-film electrode", which is a structure that is not obvious over Mathiew et al. in view of Dubrow et al.

Dependent claim 65 is amended to provide that the angle is a "non-zero" angle, which is to say, the second substrate is not parallel to the first substrate.

Because claim 64 is allowable, it follows that the remaining dependent claims are similarly allowable.

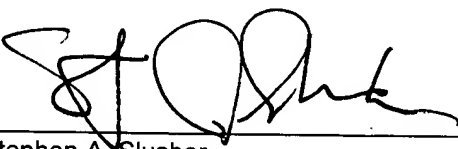
Conclusion

An earnest attempt has been made to respond to each and every ground of rejection advanced by the Examiner. However, should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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